

PRIORITY DOCUMENT TRANSMITTAL FORM

First Named Inventor	Michael Pong Kei Wong
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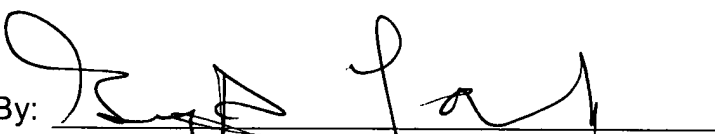
Sir:

SUBMISSION OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

Applicant claims priority from Application No. 0300098.1 filed January 3, 2003 in the United Kingdom. A certified copy of the priority application is enclosed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Pong Kei Wong

By: 

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Patents Form 1/77

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1. Your reference **GBP87367**
2. Patent application number
(The Patent Office will fill in this part)
3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

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If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

4. Title of the invention **Electrical adaptor**

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)
"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

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6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

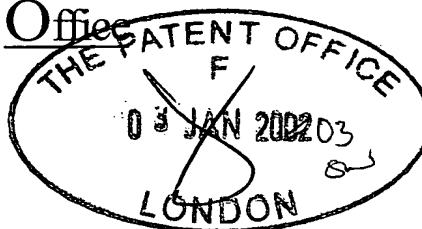
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required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
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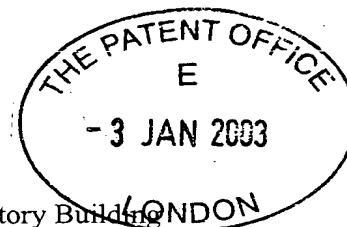
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0300098.1

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Description 9

Claim(s) 3

Abstract 1

Drawing(s) 5 x 5

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Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77) 1

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents (please specify)

11. I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

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Electrical Adapter

Background of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to main power electrical connectors. More particularly, although not exclusively, the invention relates to a main power electrical adapter having a choice of configurations.

10 Electric plugs for insertion to wall sockets are of course known. These either comprise two or three pins, depending upon whether an earth pin is needed. The plugs have a power cord extending therefrom, usually directly outwardly from the wall, or otherwise in a direction

15 parallel to the wall in a downward or downward and angularly-offset manner. Sometimes this pre-set angle at which the power cord extends from the plug body is inconvenient. For example, when the cord extends normally to the wall and it is desired to place furniture

20 against the wall at that position, the furniture must often need to be spaced from the wall. If the power cord is short and extends downwardly from the plug when the plug is inserted into the wall socket, this can create problems where say it extends from a desk lamp for

25 example to be positioned at a higher level than that of the wall socket. In such a situation, it would be more appropriate that the plug have the power cord extending upwardly instead of downwardly therefrom.

Also, the pin configuration of wall sockets and electrical plugs vary from country to country. When travelling with a laptop computer for example one often
5 has to carry traveller's adapters. These can be bulky, cumbersome items.

Objects of the Invention

10 It is an object of the present invention to overcome or substantially ameliorate at least one of the above disadvantages and/or more generally to provide an improved electrical adapter.

15 Disclosure of the Invention

There is disclosed herein an electrical adapter comprising:

a base having electrical terminals and engagable
20 pivot connection features, and

a body having engager pivot connecting features for co-operating with the engagable pivot connection features of the base to secure the body rotatably to the base, the body having electrical contacts configured to engage with
25 the terminals of the base when the body and base are so secured.

Preferably the base has conducting pins extending from one side thereof for insertion into apertures of a mating socket and the electrical terminals are located on the other side of the base and correspond to each of the
5 conducting pins and are connected electrically thereto.

Alternatively the base can have extending therefrom another power cord at a remote end of which there is a plug having conducting pins for insertion into apertures
10 of a mating socket and wherein the electrical terminals are connected electrically to each of the conducting pins via individual conductors in said another power cord.

Preferably the engagable and engager pivot mounting
15 features are mutually bayonet-inter-engagable.

Preferably the engagable pivot mounting features of the base comprise a number of radially extending lugs having circumferentially extending ramp surfaces.
20

Preferably the engager pivot mounting features of the body comprise openings through which the lugs must pass for interengagement of the base and the body to take place.

25 Preferably said lugs are of differing size and said openings are of corresponding differing size to restrict allowable alignment orientations of the body and base when interconnected.

Preferably the base comprises an annular channel within which the terminals are located.

- 5 Preferably the terminals are located within narrowed parts of the channel.

Preferably the body includes a locking device by which the base is locked to the body when interconnected therewith.

10

Preferably the electrical contacts of the body are spring-biased toward the terminals.

- Preferably the electrical contacts of the body are
15 connected to individual conductors of a power cord extending from the body.

Brief Description of the Drawings

- 20 A preferred form of the present invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a schematic perspective illustration of the
25 base,

Figure 2 is a schematic inverted perspective illustration of the base,

Figure 3 is a schematic perspective illustration of a body for connection to the base of Figures 1 and 2,

5 Figure 4 is a schematic perspective detailed illustration of parts of the body of Figure 3,

Figures 5 and 6 are schematic perspective illustrations of the body and base showing the base in its alternative
10 insertion orientations,

Figures 7 and 8 are schematic perspective illustrations of the body and base with the base illustrated in alternate locked orientations, and
15

Figure 9 is a schematic perspective illustration of an alternative base having an extension cord extending therefrom with a plug at its remote end.

20 Description of the Preferred Embodiment

In the accompanying drawings there is schematically depicted an adapter base 10 and a mating plug body 20.

25 Figures 1 and 2 depict the adapter base 10. The adapter base 10 is fabricated typically as a moulding of plastics material and includes a plate 13 having three projecting metallic electrically conductive pins projecting from one

side. There are active and neutral pins 11 and an earth pin 12. Alternatively, there might simply be a pair of active and neutral pins. As yet a further alternative, the pin 12 might be a plastics or other non-conductive dummy pin. The adapter base 10 of the illustrated embodiment has its pins configured in the standard British layout, but it should be appreciated that the pin configuration could equally be that of Australia, the USA, or any other country. Indeed, the plug body 20 of Figures 3 and 4 might be supplied with a number of bases 10, each base having a configuration applicable for a different country.

At the other side of the plate 13 there is provided a flat bearing ring 14 formed as an integral moulding therewith. Located internally and concentrically with the bearing surface 14 is an inner circular projecting rail 7 and an outer circular rail 15. Between the two rails there is defined an annular channel 9 having a pair of diametrically opposed narrowed portions 8. At the bottom part of each narrowed portion 8 there is provided a terminal 17. One of the terminals is connected electrically with either the active or neutral pin 11 and the other terminal is connected to the other pin 11. There might also be a further terminal 17 connected with the earth pin 12.

The outer rail 15 has extending therefrom four bayonet

lugs 16. Each bayonet lug 16 is spaced from the bearing surface 14 and includes a circumferentially extending ramped upper surface. Diametrically opposed pairs of the bayonet lugs 16 are of the same size, yet adjacent pairs
5 of the bayonet lugs are of differing size.

Figures 3 and 4 depict a plug body 20 for bayonet-inter-connection with the adapter base 10. The plug body 20 is typically fabricated from several plastics moulded parts
10 that are screwed, snapped or welded together ultrasonically and has extending from it via a rubber grommet 22 a power cord 21.

The plug body 20 includes a flat circular bearing ring 33
15 for engagement with the bearing ring 14 of the adapter base 10. There is a central recess 32 in which there is located a pair of diametrically opposed electrical spring contacts 26. These spring contacts are connected electrically with individual conductors within the cord
20 21. Located around the central recess 32 there are four openings 31. Diametrically opposed pairs of the openings 31 are of the same size, whereas adjacent pairs are of different size. By this arrangement, bayonet lugs of the adapter base 10 can be lowered into the openings 31 of
25 the plug body 20 in only two possible orientations, namely those as depicted in Figures 5 and 6 respectively. That is, the openings 31 are just large enough to receive the lugs and the larger pair of the four lugs will not

fit into the smaller openings.

Alongside each opening 31 and situated beneath the bearing ring 33 are lug-receiving slots 29. There are
5 ramp surfaces at the bottom of each opening 31.

Situated alongside and projecting within one of the openings 31 is a locking device comprising an interlock tongue 24 and an activator 23 formed integrally
10 therewith. The tongue 24 projects into a tongue recess 25 as depicted in Figure 4. With reference again to Figure 1, the outer rail 15 includes a pair of diametrically opposed interlock recesses 18 into one of which the tongue 24 snap-engages upon bayonet-fitting of
15 the two components. The activator 23 is an integral part of the plug body 20 and has a pair of cut-outs at either side enabling downward movement of the interlocked tongue 24 upon application of finger-pressure to the activator 23. It is only upon this application of finger pressure
20 that the interlocked parts can be detached.

In use, parts 10 and 20 are attached as shown in Figure 5 and 6 and then the adapter based 10 is rotated clockwise until the bayonet lugs bear against end walls 28 at each
25 slot 29. At this time, the interlock tongue 24 snaps into one of the interlock recesses 18, depending upon the chosen orientation as depicted in either of Figures 7 or 8. The attached components can then be plugged into a

wall socket, plug board, or extension cord for example.

There is an alignment indicator 30 on the plug body 20 and a corresponding pair of indicators 34 on the adapter base to assist in aligning the components as illustrated in Figures 5 and 6.

It should be appreciated that modifications and alterations obvious to those skilled in the art are not to be considered as beyond the scope of the present invention. For example, there might be located within the plug body 20 a transformer to provide a low voltage output to the power cord 21. Also, instead of a bayonet-type interengagement, other types of plug-in arrangements might be adopted.

Furthermore, it is envisaged that the base of the electrical adapter need not be configured with pins to be received directly by apertures of a mating socket. For example, and as shown in Figure 9, the base might have an extension cord 35 extending therefrom and at the remote end of which there is a standard plug 36 to be received by a wall socket or another extension cord for example.

25

Also, the body might be formed integrally with an electrical appliance, double adapter, multiple plug board, transformer box or the like.

CLAIMS:

1. An electrical adapter comprising:
a base having electrical terminals and engagable
5 pivot connection features, and
a body having engager pivot connecting features for
co-operating with the engagable pivot connection features
of the base to secure the body rotatably to the base, the
body having electrical contacts configured to engage with
10 the terminals of the base when the body and base are so
secured.
2. The electrical adapter of Claim 1 wherein the base
has conducting pins extending from one side thereof for
15 insertion into apertures of a mating socket and the
electrical terminals are located on the other side of the
base and correspond to each of the conducting pins and are
connected electrically thereto.
- 20 3. The electrical adapter of Claim 1 wherein the base
has extending therefrom a power cord at a remote end of
which there is a plug having conducting pins for insertion
into apertures of a mating socket and wherein the
electrical terminals are connected electrically to each of
25 the conducting pins via individual conductors in the power
cord.
4. The electrical connector of Claim 1, wherein the

engagable and engager pivot mounting features are mutually bayonet-inter-engagable.

5. The electrical connector of Claim 1, wherein the
5 engagable pivot mounting features of the base comprise a number of radially extending lugs having circumferentially extending ramp surfaces.

6. The electrical connector of Claim 1 wherein the
10 engager pivot mounting features of the body comprise openings through which the lugs must pass for interengagement of the base and the body to take place.

7. The electrical connector of Claim 6 wherein said lugs
15 are of differing size and said openings are of corresponding differing size to restrict allowable alignment orientations of the body and base when interconnected.

20 8. The electrical connector of Claim 1 wherein the base comprises an annular channel within which the terminals are located.

9. The electrical connector of Claim 8 wherein the
25 terminals are located within narrowed parts of the channel.

10. The electrical connector of Claim 1 wherein the body

includes a locking device by which the base is locked to the body when interconnected therewith.

11. The electrical connector of Claim 1 wherein the
5 electrical contacts of the body are spring-biased toward the terminals.

12. The electrical connector of Claim 1 wherein the body
is integrated into an electrical appliance, double
10 adapter, multiple plug board, transformer box or the like.

13. The electrical connector of Claim 1 wherein the
electrical contacts of the body are connected to
15 individual conductors of a power cord extending from the body.

Electrical Adapter

ABSTRACT

5 An electrical adapter includes a base having conducting
pins extending from one side for insertion into apertures
of a mating socket, electrical terminals on the other side
and electrically connected to each of the conducting pins.
The base a bayonet fitting. A body for connection to the
10 base has a corresponding bayonet fitting for co-operating
with the bayonet fitting of the base to secure the body to
the base in a desired orientation. There are electrical
contacts configured on the body to engage with the
terminals of the base when the body and base are secured
15 to one another. A power cord extends from the body.



11 12



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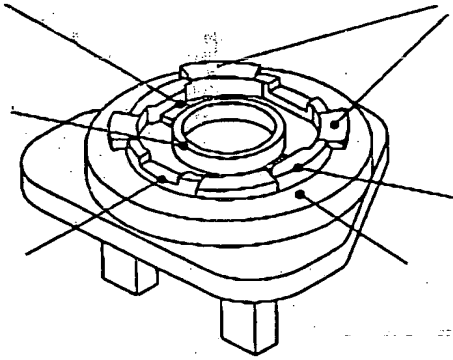


FIGURE 1

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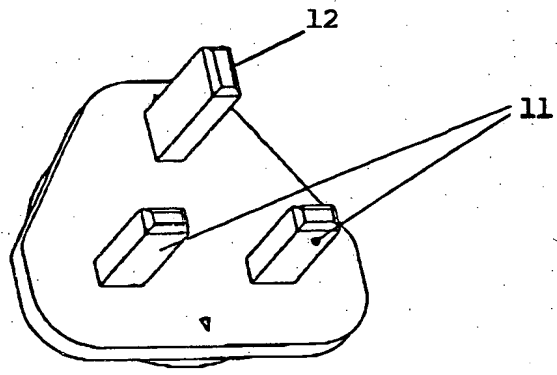


FIGURE 2



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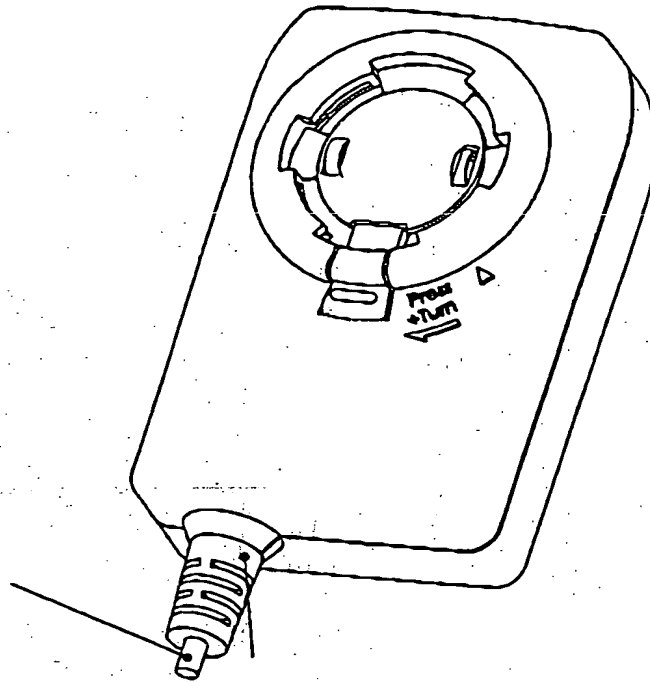


FIGURE 3

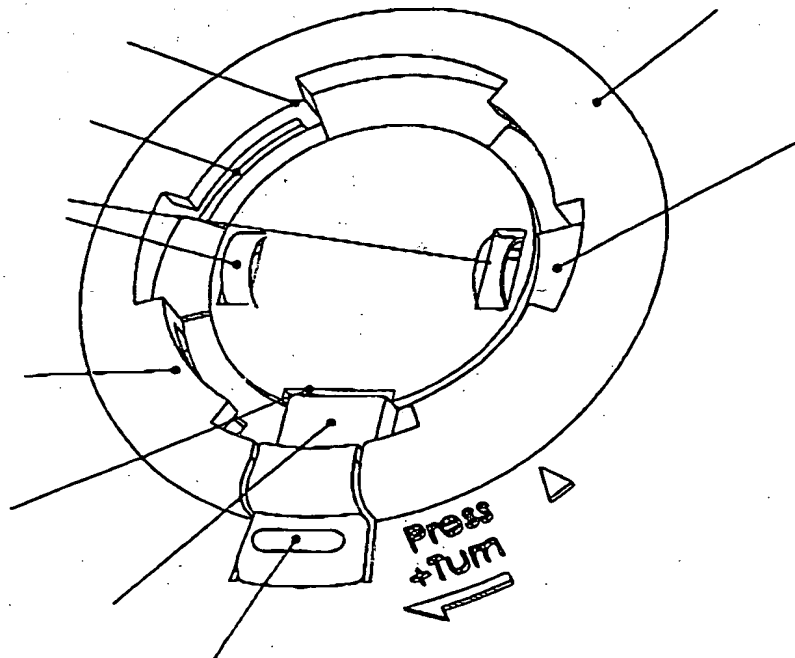


FIGURE 4



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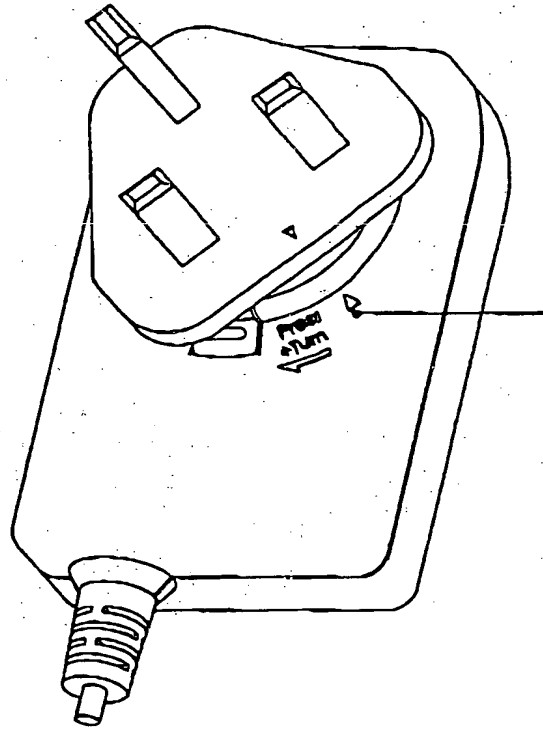


FIGURE 5

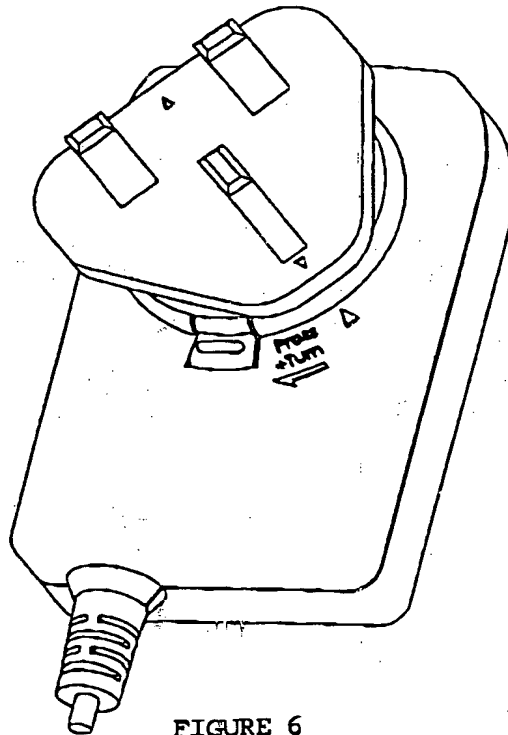


FIGURE 6



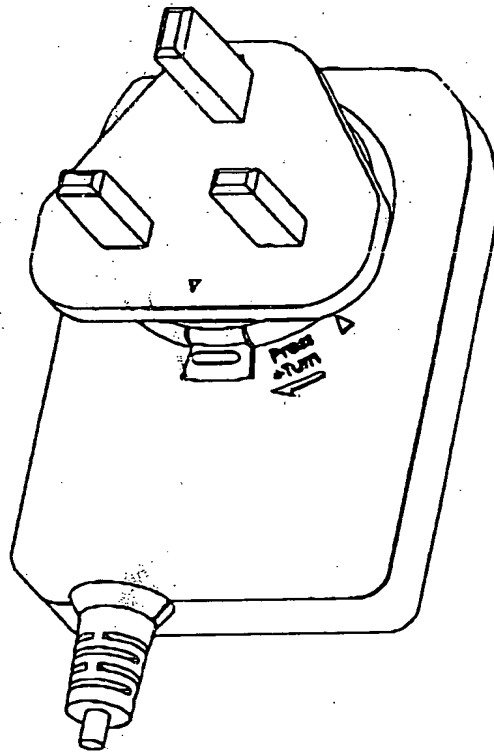


FIGURE 7

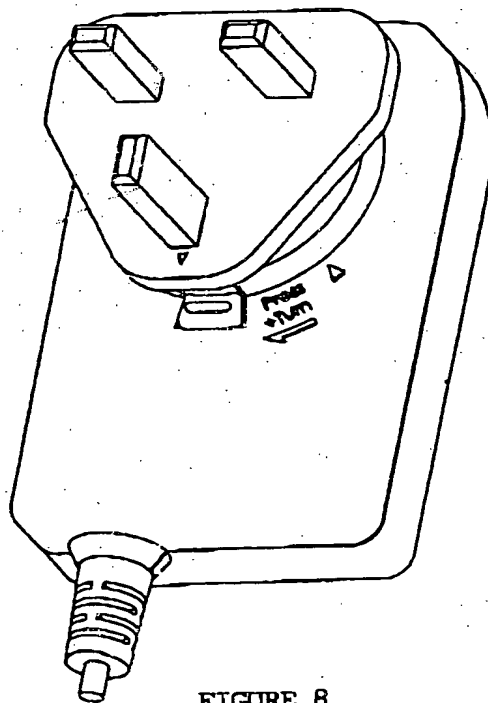


FIGURE 8



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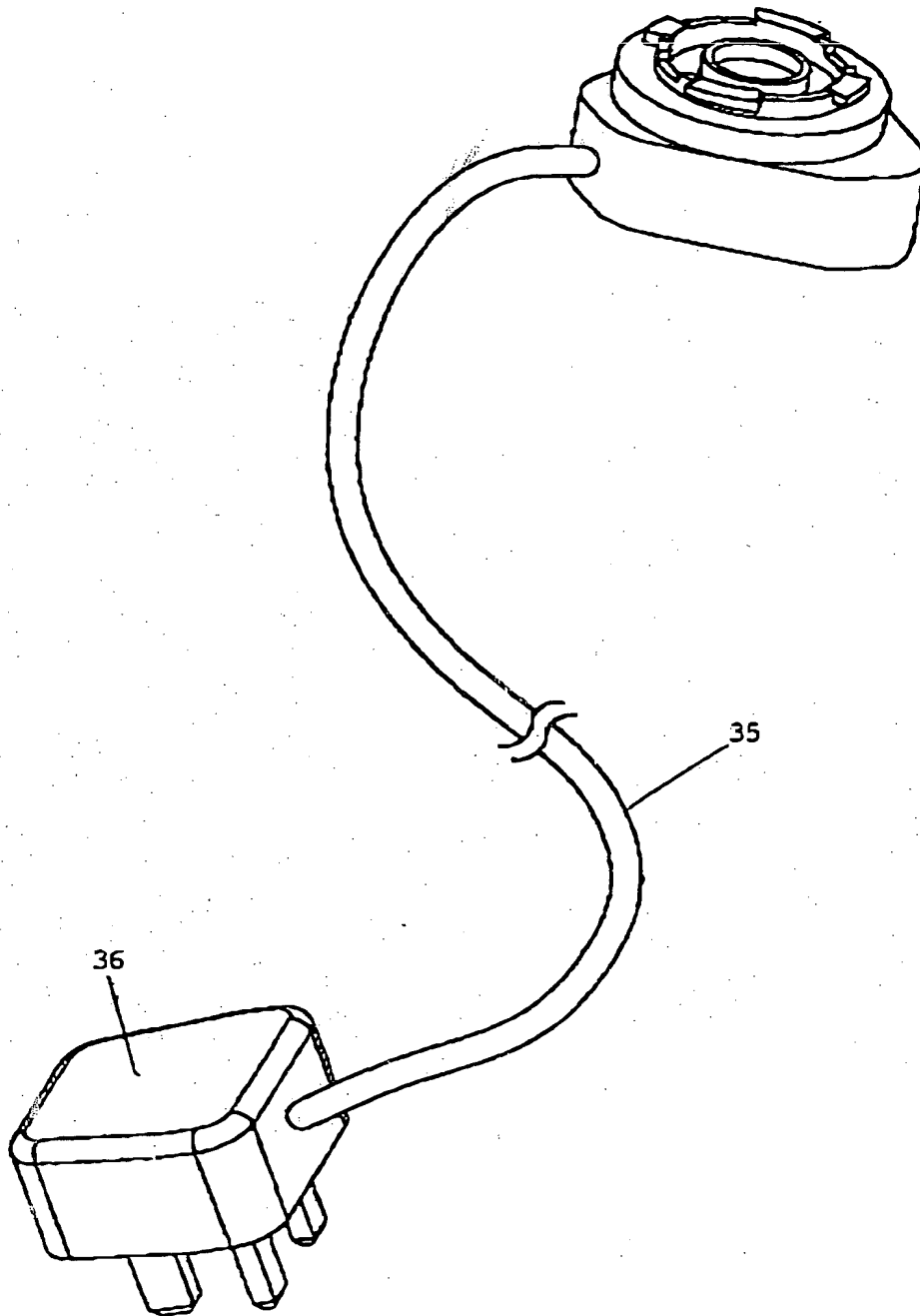


FIGURE 9



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